

Macomb, Illinois  
October 24, 1941

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

*see enclosed*  
I have been waiting to hear from you, but your letter was a surprise. Anne and I were taken aback. However we have made our decision and look forward for great things.

*see attached  
minutes  
last sent  
in by Walter  
Smith.*  
There are many things which we would like to know. Anne is especially anxious to know about the furniture she would need. We have the problem of storing a few peices and would like to know just what to leave and what to take along.

The next question we have is when would we have to leave? I will not notify my session here until the matter is all settled and the definite day arranged. I need at least a month's notice, for this church.

If you are in or around Chicago next week, we would like to talk with you about the details.

Anne insists on knowing whether or not there is a refrigerator in the manse.

The year that I have spent here has been time in which to understand better the place that I would like to fill. I hope that your faith in me will be justified.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur N. Bily

Arthur N. Bily

*Pol. paid  
\$700 by local  
church - \$800 by  
Board & pension  
share.*

October 30, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur Bily  
Macomb, Illinois

Dear Arthur:

I think you have made a wise decision in accepting the offer to go to Sitka, Alaska. In my judgment you will find there the type of work that you are most interested in. I am convinced that you will be happy in the service rendered.

Since Mr. Booth is leaving Sitka November 15th I think you should be on the field by December 1st. This will mean that it will be necessary for you to leave Chicago a week or ten days prior to the first. However, if it is necessary for you to make final arrangements with your church there, we will extend the time and permit you to leave Chicago the first of December arriving on the field by December 10th. My choice and my preference is for you to be in Sitka by December 1st. You will let me know about your schedule in order that we may secure reservations on the boat. This is very important and we should have notice in order that transportation can be provided. As you know travel to Alaska is heavy now and it is not easy to arrange a schedule on the boat at will.

I am sending an inventory of the furniture in the manse at Sitka. When you have finished with this inventory please return it to me for my files. There is no refrigerator at Sitka in the manse but I seriously question whether or not one is necessary.

I do not plan to be in Chicago until the latter part of next month. Any question that you have in your mind please do not hesitate to write.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE

ALASKA



Central Presbyterian Church, U. S. A.

E. B. SURFACE, D. D., MINISTER  
CORNER NORTH SECOND AND BEECH

Abilene, Texas

Nov., 10, 1941

Rev. Everett B. King, D. D. ("Andy"),  
156 Fifth Ave.,  
New York,  
N.Y.

My dear Dr. King:-

Our mutual friend, Maj. Dirk Lay, Chaplain of 158 Inf., Area 4 Hdqts, will be fifty six years of age Jan., 1st., and shortly thereafter will be retired on account of Army regulations.

I was talking with him yesterday. He and his wife live in a Trailer at Buffalo Gap, -the Trailer is the last word in convenience. I asked him how he and his wife would like Sunday School Missionary work, -traveling in his trailer, visiting needy fields and pastorless churches, holding a meeting in a church, and raise the money while there for them to call a Pastor; then go on to another field etc He said "I would like it" They would avoid having to rent a house, -just live on the field; he would like that field to be in Texas. He could have a close relationship, on account of his wide experience as Chaplain, with the Army Camps. Chaplain Lay has vigor and alertness of a thirty year old man, and along the line of work suggested above, would render invaluable service for years to come. They are not going back to Indian Work, and would be available.

Write him at once Dr. King at above address.

With all good wishes,

I am,

Yours most sincerely and fraternally,

*E. B. Surface*  
E. B. Surface

R. F. D. #3  
Macomb, Ill.  
Nov. 13, 1941

Dear Mr. King: -

With a lot of difficulty and the loss of patience we are trying to get packed and ready to go; it seems that with all the problems, we have one outstanding one.

Our electric refrigerator, which is a little over a year old, will not be shipped by Sears Roebuck & Co; as we had first hoped it would be. As you know you can <sup>not</sup> store them, due to the rubber deteriorating <sup>and</sup> <sup>of our</sup> <sup>in</sup> all <sup>the</sup> families possess one, also you can't expect to sell one without losing more than one-half on it, as we have tried.



With the type of climate Sitka,  
has, I'm inclined to believe  
that it could be of great service.  
As long as we haven't asked the  
board to ship any other furniture,  
I do think the board could  
ship the refrigerator for us. I  
don't think it would be a waste  
of money.

Montgomery Ward & Co. are  
shipping our living room suite  
for us, at least they claim they  
will so far, and I do heard  
that it will come in handy,  
as long as the one in the machine  
is in such a sorry state.

We have decided to drop  
the bed room set, as long as there  
are several down there, and you  
can always make them look  
attractive, with a little work.

As we are leaving Macauley,  
the 15th of November, you can  
reach us at 1831 S. Racine Ave.

Chicago.

I'm counting on you and  
the Board to help us with the  
refrigerator problem. Also hoping  
we can see you in Chicago,  
before we leave there.

Sincerely,

Anne Billy

Mr. Billy gave the address  
in Chicago as follows:—

Howell Neighborhood House  
1831 So. Racine Ave.  
Chicago, Ills.



November 13, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur M. Bily  
Macomb, Illinois

Dear Mr. Bily:

Dr. King is out of the office on a field trip but I am hastening to send you word that today we received a letter from Mr. Howell stating that he has secured passage for you and Mrs. Bily on the Northland, sailing from Seattle, December 3rd. You will have stateroom 3.

Mr. Howell has requested information as to your arrival date in Seattle so that he may get the bills of lading and papers for your freight. I would suggest that you write airmail immediately to Rev. William J. Howell, c/o Y.M.C.A., Tacoma, Washington, giving him this information so that he can clear these other details. It will save considerable time if you take care of these details directly with Mr. Howell.

I hope you have a pleasant trip to the coast and that the boat trip from Seattle to Sitka will be enjoyable.

With best wishes for success in your new work,

Cordially yours,

UNIT OF WORK IN ALASKA

By:

McE

c.c. sent to Howell House, Chicago



November 24, 1941

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur M. Bily  
Howell House  
1831 So. Racine Avenue  
Chicago, Illinois

Dear Bily:

I wired you from Kansas City asking that you meet me at the Dearborn Street Station in Chicago Friday morning at 9 o'clock. I looked through the station very closely and carefully but was unable to find you. I am sorry for the misunderstanding because it would have been helpful to have had the opportunity of talking to you before you left for Alaska.

In regard to shipping the refrigerator to Sitka - I do not feel that the Board would be justified in this additional expense. I am quite sure that you will find that the refrigerator is not a necessity when you land on the field. I know it will be quite a convenience for you to have it and I wish it was possible for the Board to grant all the requests that are made but as you can understand, with so many requests coming in and with a limited budget to handle such request with, it is necessary that we make careful selections. I suggest that you dispose of the refrigerator or if you insist on sending it to Alaska, I shall be glad to make another small advancement on your salary in order that you may take care of the expense yourself.

Cordially yours,

EBK:McE



# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Arthur N. Bily  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

January 12, 1941 [1942]

Dr. Everett B. King  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

We arrived in Sitka about four weeks ago. The outlook was quite gloomy with the city in a state of unrest because of the war scare. Since we have been here, more than six hundred people have left. The place is again coming back to normal. Mrs. Bily and I are slowly becoming accustomed to the Alaskan weather, time and life.

During the beginning phases of the blackout we discontinued our evening services, but now the rules of the blackout enable us to again continue our normal church life.

I was very sorry to have missed you when you came thru Chicago, but your telegram was delivered to me about thirty minutes after your train arrived. I phoned the depot, but you had already left. There were many questions I would liked to have answered before I left. However most of them were answered upon my arrival.

Rev. Howell was very gracious in helping us get started by boat to Sitka. Our unexpected delay in Seattle caused us a little worry. We asked Rev. Howell to take care of our hotel bill. And with a further delay in Wrangell when war was declared, we didn't know whether the boat would be sent back to Seattle, or be held at Wrangell. We were at Wrangell for three days and very little definite news came to us. "Rumors were that Sitka had been bombed." that we would be forced to remain in Wrangell, and a dozen others that kept us wondering whether we would ever get to see Sitka. However, on arriving at Sitka, we find that this is about the safest place on the coast.

I was interested in hearing about the plans for the new church and regret very much that they were not realized. With all these service men and defense workers still here, we find our hands tied because of the lack of facilities to take care of these people in our church program. Even a temporary structure would be of great help.

There is one other matter. We used all of our traveling account and have no refund to make to the Board. Montgomery Ward shipped our furniture from Chicago, but we have to take care of the freight from Seattle to Sitka, which amounts to \$67. We would like to have the Board take care of \$47. of this bill. The other \$20. is for the icebox which we will take care of.



First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Arthur N. Bily  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

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Everyone at the School and church were much put out with the government taking over the Princeton-Hall and SJS. However, we all hope that it will be for the best.

We were able to visit with all of the men along the coast. We saw Jimmie Hall and Harry Champlan, and Rev. Booth. They were a great help in making the picture of Alaska a little clearer by their explanations and stories.

If there are any other things which you feel I ought to know please let me in on them. Especially about the plans for the church. I've been going thru all the old letters and asking many questions but still I haven't come to the logically complete answer as to why the building was never built.

Hoping to hear from you.

Sincerely yours,

Arthur N. Bily

Arthur N. Bily

January 11, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur M. Bily  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Friend Bily:

I have not received any report from you in detail about your work in Sitka. I should like very much to have a written report of your reception and of the beginning of the work and the Board also requires of the missionary to send along a supplement to the monthly report each month, giving a description of the activities of the church. In addition to the monthly report, of course, you have the quarterly news letter that you will want to send in. I cannot over-emphasize the importance and necessity for giving these reports your careful and prompt attention.

All of the reports that I have received about you have been most encouraging. I do hope that you have found this field to be the field with a tremendous appeal to your heart. In these trying days you have a great opportunity for real service.

Cordially yours,

HBK:McE



January 24, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur W. Bily  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Arthur:

Enclosed you will find a check for \$47. to take care of the balance of the money due to you for transportation and moving from Seattle to Sitka. I am glad that everything has gone through all right.

You certainly did have an interesting voyage through Alaska. I imagine that you were real satisfied to land in Sitka safely.

Monthly, of course, you will write me a detailed letter, describing the conditions of Sitka together with your work. Then, in addition to this information, you have a quarterly letter to send relating to the most interesting or outstanding experiences during the quarter. It is very necessary that you send in this information promptly and regularly.

There are no plans for a new building for Sitka at present. We had hoped to enter into a building program and if the war had not developed, I am sure that the plan would have been carried through but under the existing conditions there is no hope for the building program. So whenever the question comes up, you are perfectly safe in saying that nothing will be done until conditions are more settled.

I do hope that you and your wife have gotten adjusted to Alaska and that you are in love with your work. I have already received several very interesting and commending reports about you and the work.

Cordially yours,

EEK:McE

## Narrative Report Lec. -- Jan.

We arrived in Sitka December 13th. during the blackout at the railroad of the est. We were met by Mr. Yaw, Mr. Wuster, and Mr. Young, members of the session.

The church and Sunday School were in the midst of their preparations for the Christmas program, which was an excellent example of the untiring work of Miss Fuller, Mr. Weeks and Mrs. Lister of the Sitka Johnson School in their work of seeing the young people of our church see the message of Christ in the Christmas story. The early days of our arrival were full of activity, settling ourselves and helping in the preparation of the Christmas program.

During these early weeks, the war situation prevented us from having our regular evening services because of the blackout rules. But with the clearing of the blackout rules we again resumed our evening services on January 18th.

With all of the war scare and uncertainty and anxiety during these early weeks, the session did not have a reception for Mrs. Wiley and myself until two years ago. The evening ended with a 10-11 night service which was well attended.

In January 2 the session met and I became acquainted with the church situation. The session and church people were quite disappointed in not having some building. However, they were not given up hope. The Building Committee reported that they have about \$4000. on hand for the new building if and when the time comes. The needs for a new building are great, but let us face the fact we will have to wait, before any action can be taken.

We enjoy our work and find these people willing and happy in their church life.

*Produce to Body*



Narrative Report Jan. & Feb.

After viewing the picture of Sitka for the past month and a half, I find that there is much work to be done. Sitka is a boom town. Defense workers, soldiers, and sailors are all a part of the new life of Sitka. But with them come the problems of liquor, and a lowering of the moral standards. Outside of our Sunday services, or church we give little in the way of recreation or entertainment for these people.

It is truly a discouraging picture. However, Mr. Weeks and I are determined to help all we can. We have begun work in the native village. Mr. Weeks of the S. J. S. staff, and I are trying to get a recreation program of some sort started. We contacted Andrew Hays, builder of the helicopter-plant, and he has brought the problem before the Alaska Native Brotherhood. They have given us permission to use their hall. We plan to have a recreational program, and a special program for the native people underway before May first.

The session of our church came up the matter of the increase in my salary and it was passed.

I enjoy my work, and only hope that this may not still not interfere with the work that is needed here in Sitka.

Arthur M. Foley

## Narrative Report Feb.--March.

We are looking forward to our Easter program. Our communicants class, which has met for the last five weeks, numbers about 20. Also, there about ten adults entering our fellowship, by letter and confession of faith. In our program we are trying to reach many of the families of the defense workers, and the service men.

Our program in the Village is slowly taking shape, and I hope to be able to report on it in the next month's report.

A little note on what our program in the village will include. Having been a part of a Solidarity Study program in Chicago, and knowing what it meant to me, I feel that our purpose in bringing this modified Neighborhood house (if I may call it that) to these people, is to bring them closer to a working Christianity. It is an experiment, but I hope and pray it may help these people a little.

Because of the poor facilities at our church for entertaining the service men, Mrs. Billy and I have opened our home on Sunday evenings to the service men. The women of the church usually supply cookies or pie and coffee.

We plan to observe Holy week this year, it has never been attempted here before. The session feels it will be a welcomed pause in the busy life of this boom town.

The men usually work on Sundays, but with the coming of longer days, they may work longer hours, and again observe the Sabbath.

Arthur M. Bailey



April 29, 1942

Rev. Mr. Arthur M. Bily,  
Sitka,  
Alaska

Dear Arthur:

In your Narrative Report for February and March you speak of the Village and indicate you have some plans for service to these people. I wish that you had taken the time to write me more in detail about what these plans involve, and what you purpose to do. I think the suggestion is a very good one and shall be most interested in hearing more about the efforts.

Cordially yours,

EBK-M

April 29, 1942

Rev. Arthur M. Bily,  
Sitka,  
Alaska

Dear Arthur:

After writing my letter to you, I received a memo from Miss Anne Gillespie about your letters to the supporting churches. I am enclosing her memo to me.

Let me call your attention to the fact it is very essential that you carry on at least a quarterly correspondence with these supporting churches. You can readily recognize the value for this.

These churches will be interested in human interest stories connected with the work you are doing. Please send me a copy of your letter to these churches, or if you would prefer, you can send me the originals and then we will have copies made to send to the other churches.

Cordially yours,

EBK-M



August 21, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur M. Billy  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Billy:

I have written to you once or twice before about your sending information to the office relative to the progress of the church in Sitka but I have been disappointed in the meager information that you have sent and I have been disappointed in your apparent careless way in which you have kept our office informed about your activities and the church life. Of course, you must know that it is a part of the business of our office to keep in constant contact with our missionaries. Your reports are, therefore, essential. I am going to have to insist that you begin to send us promptly and regularly full reports of the work that you are doing there in Sitka. I am quite sure that it is not always a pleasant thing to take time to write out reports but you must remember that we are handling trust money and as trustees we cannot be forgiven unless we have reports to verify our expenditures.

I am saying all this in order that you may know that I am positive in making this request. I cannot accept any alibi or excuse for your carelessness or for your future delays. You must send us regularly full reports of your activities.

Cordially yours,

EHK:McE  
C.C. Leslie Yaw

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Arthur N. Bily  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

November 1, 1942

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

Attached is a report on the work here in Sitka. There are a few incidents which I have not included in this report that I would like to mention in this letter.

Just a week ago we had our congregational meeting. It was a little later than usual, because of the number of members of the church and session that were not in town. At the meeting it was decided that our church could assume a greater portion of the responsibility for my salary. Therefore it was decided that The church would assume a responsibility of \$920. for the coming year beginning as of October 1. Our loan from the Board for the year would be \$780. Enclosed is also a Check for \$10. a refund on last months check.

I wish to thank you for that check which came thru the kindness of Mr. Scheide. I have written to him thanking him for his gift and told him about our work here in Sitka.

The session welcomed your offer of the \$40. from the First Presbyterian Church of Wichita Falls, for hymn books. We would like to have new copies of The Hymnal. With more people attending our church, and having a choir of fifty-three we find that we have to double up quite often during the Service.

I will send you our budget report and inventory by the next mail.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur N. Bily*

Arthur N. Bily



A REPORT OF THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SITKA, ALASKA

Sitka before the war was a typical midwestern town of the average farm community population. The National Defense Program soon made it a boom town until the present time the population has more than doubled. Like all boom towns, Sitka is faced with the same problems; housing, prostitution, liquor, gambling, etc.

The problem of prostitution in Sitka is a typical political headache. The houses are operated within the city limits. The City has on its statute-books a law forbidding prostitution within the city of Sitka. However, they get around this legally or illegally, by arresting the girls and proprietors of these houses every month and fining them. (A very uplifting means of acquiring revenue to help run the City.) The Army and Navy do not take any action either for or against them. These houses are operated in the neighborhood of the only recreational spot in the City. Swan Lake is a small body of water just a few blocks from the heart of the city. During the cold weather it is the only spot suitable for winter sports that is available to all people. The houses occupy the South and East shores of this lake, which make it very repulsive to even suggest as a playground at the present time.

The liquor question still remains a large problem, not only in Sitka, but all over Alaska. A few months ago there was only a very small amount brought in by the regular boats, but again it begins to take priority over many other needed articles. Even if the regular boats do not bring it, fishing boats, during the off season, will gladly make the trips. This has already happened. The problem must be brought to Washington if we seek a solution.

The promise of a U. S. O. building is to become a reality. Mr. Knapp, who is to head the U. S. O. work here in Sitka arrived a short time ago, and plans are being made to start work soon. It will serve a great need, and we look forward to it.

The Presbyterian Church missed a wonderful opportunity when it did not increase its facilities earlier as had been planned. However, that is past and the need that faces us must be met in some other way.

The problem of recreation for Native children and young people is just as acute. Being barred from all social life of the town, and having no leadership of their own, the Native has no place to turn to except the movie. I have found that most of the Natives attend the movie every time there is a change of feature. They all feel that it is the only place that they can go for recreation. The Alaska Native Brotherhood offered the use of their building in the Native Village during the early summer to Mr. Ralph Weeks and myself. We started out on a recreation program for the Natives. Hoping that in some small way we could help these youngsters make use of their leisure time. But when we went ahead and held a dance for the young people, we found that it was against the policy of the Board to sanction dancing, we dropped the whole idea to keep from

causing a misunderstanding of our whole purpose. However, I still feel that because we do not have adequate facilities in our own church for social gatherings and because there is a definite need for some social life for these people; there should be a program of activity which meets the needs of the people not only of the native people but the white people also.

During the month of June we held our regular Daily Vacation Bible school for one week, in the Church and on the Campus of the Sheldon Jackson School. We had about 35 to 40 youngsters present, ages from 5 to 12. The following three weeks we held a recreation and craft period from 1:30 to 4:00 on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. We had about 25 Boys and as many girls and little tots. It was a new type of project for Sitka that was well received by all the parents. Next year we hope to have a bigger program, and continue for a longer period of time.

With the acute shortage of men in general, there is a constant demand for women to perform the regular business of the town. Women would gladly take over some of these jobs, but with children and home responsibilities it is quite impossible. One of our great needs is a Day Nursurey. Our problem is unique in that we would have Native and White children, but I know that the Bureau of Indian Affairs would make an effort to help their charges if we don't.

Another problem in Sitka, is the health problem. Sitka with its increased population has only one doctor. The task of serving not only as the only doctor in town, but as the doctor for the Pioneer Home patients, and Government doctor for the Natives. In talking with Mr. Yaw, He mentioned the return of many foreign missionaries and the possibility of having a medical missionary stationed here to help the situation. We hope that something can be done along this line.



November 13, 1942

AIRMAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur Bily  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Arthur:

Thank you for sending me the good report about the work at Sitka. I shall be expecting a similar one each quarter. It is very necessary that this part of your ministry be faithfully maintained. Your supporting churches will soon withdraw their support if you do not keep us informed with the information requested.

I have the money order from the Pittsburgh Church and am notifying Miss Gillispie about the situation, asking her to write the West View Presbyterian Church.

Thanks for the \$10. that you have refunded on your last month's check. We are notifying the Treasury and will change the schedule for your payments beginning October 1st. We are making your allocation \$780. in place of \$900. Please express my appreciation to the Session and to your congregation for this very fine demonstration on their part.

If you will let me know what kind of hymnals you are now using or that you want for the \$10. from the Eightie Falls Church, I shall be more than glad to send the order through and have the books shipped to you.

Cordially yours,

PK:McE

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Arthur N. Bily  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

January 14, 1943  
Sitka, Alaska

Dr. E. B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave.  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King,

Enclose is an inventory for the church and the manse for which you asked; if there is any question let me know. Many of the articles that have been listed for the manse I did not evaluate because of their poor and worthless condition.

Along with this inventory I would like to mention that Anne, and I started on a badly needed clean-up campaign of the Manse. We redecorated the living room and the dining room with wall paper; which certainly brightened the place up. Last month we took to the kitchen and repainted the whole of it, walls ceiling, and the wood work, which was a dark brown, and made it look dreary; we added lots of red and white. We also put up new kitchen light fixtures for better lighting, instead of the old drop cord with the bulb. The lower half of the walls we papered with a washable wall cloth suitable for the kitchen, that should last about ten years, and at least that many years of brightness. The total cost for materials was \$45. Our next project will be the bedrooms, which should not cost over \$8. apiece, they need it. We did this work because we felt it was needed and we hope that it meets with your approval. So much for inventory, etc.

The Session decided to use your offer of \$40. for hymn books to replace the wornout copies of "The Hymnal" which we use in our church.

The members of the church and the students of S. J. S. were happy to have been able to send that check of \$662.64 to the Board as an expression of the responsibility which they feel toward the Board and its work here in Sitka.

For the first time in the history of Sitka, the clergymen got together and organized into a fellowship. With all the remarks about "sinful Sitka", we decided to try and make the churches put forth a definite effort to make Sitka a better place. I'm happy to say that I called the group together at the Manse and had, the Lutheran minister, Rev. Dowler; the Catholic priest, Father O'Reilly; and the Episcopal priest, Rev. Thomas, present. Already we have definite plans which we are working on and we hope to have some results to report on soon.

The S. J. S. basketball team is getting ready for its annual basketball trip. Mr. Yaw has asked me to accompany the boys this year. We are making definite plans to start out about the middle of February and stop at the towns in Southeastern Alaska. We look forward to an interesting time.

I'll close now, and send you a belated Christmas and New Years greetings.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur N. Bily*  
Arthur N. Bily



# First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Arthur N. Bily  
Pastor

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

February 16, 1943

Dr. Everett B. King  
Board of National Missions  
156 Fifth Ave., N  
New York, N. Y.

Dear Dr. King:

I received your letters of January 15. Especially the News Letter. Our church was proud to note that its contribution was way over its quota. The people all feel that they have a definite responsibility, and are doing all they can to meet that responsibility.

Mrs. Bily and I are happy to receive the extra grant of \$150. and wish to express our deepest thanks to the Board for its consideration. This grant is an added blessing at this time because we are looking forward to an addition to our family sometime in June. Our fond hopes are that it will be a girl.

Our church is much distressed at the present time because of an incident which has arisen. Some of our native women were assisting in the work of the U. S. O. preparing food for the fellowship hour usually held on Sunday Evenings at the Lutheran Church. They were happy to be able to assist in the work, feeling that they were helping to bring a bit of cheer to those servicemen stationed here in Sitka. I have been conducting a recreation hour on Monday evenings at the Service center, and I invited these native women to come up and join us in this program. This program, consisting of the old square dances and rural type of recreation, had been set up for those servicemen who knew them and loved them as a form of recreation. The women who came up are of the best of our native group, and I was proud to have them represent our church. However, there seems to have been issued by the Army, an order to the effect that no serviceman shall associate with native women. It is a blanket order and there are no exceptions. However the people of our church feeling that it is an unjust order, and feeling that it is intended to foster discrimination, are proceeding to study the situation and seek to do all they can to create a better feeling among the people here in Sitka.

Our plans are completed for the S. J. S. basketball team trip. Mr. Yaw asked me to go along so that we can conduct services in the towns where there are no ordained ministers. We go to Lake, Petersburg, Wrangell, Metlakatla, Ketchikan, and Angoon. We leave this week and plan to be back

First Presbyterian Church

Sitka, Alaska

Arthur N. Bily  
Pastor

-2-

Roland B. Wurster  
Clerk of Session

March 5 or 6. We have a fine group of boys going this year. Not only are they good basketball players, but they are excellent singers. We look forward to this trip with a great deal of anticipation. We hope to send you a full report of our trip as soon as we return.

The folks here are looking forward to your visit to Alaska. Mrs. Bily and I hope that you will feel free to make the Manse your headquarters during your stay in Sitka.

X During our last session meeting we heard the report of the building committee which reported that we have \$5000. deposited in the Juneau bank. Recommendations from the committee were that we purchase War Bonds. Each Sunday Evening, the offering taken up during the evening service is turn over to the Building Fund. To date we have purchased approximately \$600. worth of War Bonds.

Your note regarding books interests me. I wish that you could find some books covering the questions regarding race relations, and its various implications. I hope to have a group of forums discussing those questions which are close to the people of our church. Also, I wish you would order, "The Highway of God" by Ralph W. Sockman, and "This is the Victory" by Leslie D. Weatherhead. 2-11-43

Enclosed is a report that I failed to include in my last letter.

Thanking you for everything.

Sincerely yours,

*Arthur N. Bily*

Arthur N. Bily



March 1, 1943

AIR MAIL

Rev. Mr. Arthur M. Bily  
Sitka, Alaska

Dear Bily:

I am today ordering you the two books that you listed, "The Highway of God" and "This is the Victory". I do not have any good book in mind to recommend that would help you with the racial problem, but will keep that in my mind.

I was very much interested in reading about the amount of money that you had deposited in the Juneau Bank for the new building. Certainly this is the time for you to stress this effort. There is no possibility of building at the present, but while the money is available you are doing a wise thing in collecting as much as possible, looking forward to the building after the duration. I am working on a proposition here at the office that may be helpful in stimulating the gifts.

I was surprised and delighted to hear that you are expecting a new missionary to arrive in your home. I do hope that everything will work out in a fine way.

Please send me a report of your visit with the basketball team, that is a grand opportunity of doing a fine work, and I would like to have a written story from you about the whole trip.

I was also very delighted to read about the effort that you are making in organizing a fellowship for the clergymen in Sitka. That is a step in the right direction, and one that is greatly needed in Alaska. You are making a fine contribution here.

Thank you for the kind offer to make my headquarters at the manse if and when I visit Alaska. I am sure that it would be a most pleasing association. It was fine to know that you had a clean up campaign for the manse. You have done a most needy work.

Cordially yours,

EBK/gk

*MLB*  
*Please order*  
#2962  
3-1-43



## REPORT of the MISSIONARY BASKETBALL TRIP

The chances of going on a basketball trip this year, looked pretty small at the beginning of the year. The Sheldon Jackson School team had done a good job in the city tournament, winning most of the games. They had hopes of making the usual trip, but with both of the boats, the S. J. S., and the Princeton Hall, in the service of the government, and not available it looked like the whole idea would have to be forgotten. However, one of the students dads came along and offered the use of his boat for the trip. There was much rejoicing, among the players, and all began to make preparation weeks before hand.

The plans were made, and on Feb. 19th. the good ship Valor, skippered by Willis Geopge, of Angoon, and father to Cyril George, we started out. The coach of the basketball team, Mr. John P. Holis, the team, Robert David, captain, Moses Johnson, Cyril George, Daniel Johnson, Kenneth James, George Haldane, Eddie Williams, Ben Berkley, Ed. Verney, Melbourne Booth, Alfred Perkins, and Mr. Arthur Bily, composed the party.

Our first stop was at Angoon, where we discharged a few passengers, that had been picked up at Sitka, for a few bundles that were to be delivered along the way. We then started for Kake, where we were to have our first basketball game, and hold our first worship service. At Kake, we found a new layworker William Dugaqua, who had made all the arrangements for us before we had arrived. So on Saturday evening we played our first game, and came out on top. On Sunday morning with the basketball team as my choir and support, we conducted a service. Six children were baptized, and six new members were received into the church; and as a climax a communion service was held. There were about one hundred people present. After the service we adjourned to the manse where the Missionary Women had a late afternoon dinner for us. It was a cheerful gathering with most of the town present, but the manse was quite cheerless; the floors needed some type of covering to hide the rough flooring, all the wood-work needed painting badly, and most of all the living room needed a new heating stove.

Later, after eating an excellent dinner and lots of fresh home made pies, we were shown through the rest of the house. In the kitchen the same needs stared us in the face, general repairs were needed, the kitchen stove was of special interest, for looking into the oven, we could see the live coals of the fire pot, it was burned clear through.

Mr. and Mrs. Dugaqua, are a young couple, that have just begun their work, and have a wholesome Christian enthusiasm for their work, and for the people of Kake, while the people are heart, and soul behind this young couple, and their undertaking.

The people of Kake, have begun redecorating the interior of the church, and have just about completed it, when we stopped in. The church membership is growing, and needs to have just a little outside interest shown to help these folks work out their problems.

Sunday Evening we had an unusual treat, of having our boys unite with the Kake choir, and they sang 'The Hallelujah' chorus, from Handels' Messiah. The evening service was again well attended. When we started out early Monday morning, many folks were out on the dock wishing us Godspeed, and hoping to see us soon. (On the way back we stopped in and held



a congregational meeting in preparation for Presbytery.)

Our next stop was Petersburg, where we conducted an evening service and held Communion. The boys again help present the message through their music. George Betts, the layworker, made our stay interesting and enjoyable. The Women of the church served a delightful dinner and we enjoyed the fellowship of the evening.

The following evening we played Petersburg High school and came out as victors. After the game we were the guests of the Women's Missionary society who saw to it that a group of hungry boys were fed. Following the luncheon we enjoyed an informal gathering, singing and talking and visiting with parents and friends of S. J. S. Students.

Late that night we started for Wrangell, where we were to play again. Rev. Benjamin Judd had made the necessary arrangements. The first evening was devoted to a program of worship followed by music and talks given by the boys telling of the activities of S. J. S. We were entertained by the Ladies Aid after the program and visited with the people of the church and a number of students from Wrangell Institute.. The next evening we played two games, one with Wrangell High, and the other with Wrangell Institute. Our stay was complete, we won both games.

Our next stop was Metlakatla. We stopped at Ketchikan for a couple of hours to complete our arrangements for the two evenings at Ketchikan. On arriving at Metlakatla we found awaiting us a royal welcome. All the boys were assigned to private homes to stay for the night. That same evening we were honored at a public gathering held in the town's beautiful hall. The C. E. band entertained us with music, the mayor spoke welcoming us, and later the women of the town served refreshments.

On Saturday evening we played the Metlakatla town team and again won. It was a well played game and showed excellent teamwork of the S. J. S. boys.

The Sunday morning service was conducted by our group. Rev. Swogger turning the entire morning service over to us. We had to crowd our full program into a short space of time, as we were scheduled to be in Ketchikan in time for the Evening service. The service was well attended and well received.

In Ketchikan that evening we were entertained by the women of the Ketchikan church. The evening service was again a great success. The auditorium was full and people stood in the vestibule. The boys again sang and spoke. After the program the director of the local radio station asked if the boys couldn't present a fifteen minute program the next day. The boys were more than willing. The next morning after a short rehearsal the S. J. S. Basketball and Gospel team went on the air with its rousing S. J. S. song. It was an excellent program and one of the highlights of our trip. That afternoon we presented a short assembly program at the Ketchikan High School. Other organizations asked us to have the boys sing, but with a game to be played that evening, we declared a rest period.

In the evening the boys played before one of the largest crowds to watch a game in Ketchikan. The boys played a good game but lost. Our first defeat.



The next morning we were on our way back to Metlakatla where we were scheduled to play two more games. We won another game from the Metlakatla Athletic Club, but were defeated by a servicemen's team. During the second game our boys had the opportunity of playing against older players.

We left Metlakatla and Ketchikan and headed for home, but our last stop was Angoon. We stopped at Kake for a congregational meeting and then on to Angoon where we played another game which we won. We stayed over Sunday so that we could hold Sunday services there. It was the home of Our Skipper, and we felt it an obligation to bring our message to that community. Angoon had just had a new layworker take over, and our visit made him feel more deeply his new task. We held a communion service on Sunday morning, and a service in the evening followed by a congregational meeting. The Alaska Native Sisterhood served us an excellent lunch after the morning service, and Our Skipper and his wife had a late afternoon snack ready for us after we had spent the afternoon seeing the beauty of the Kootzhanoo and the surrounding country.

We left Angoon about midnight and started homeward to Sitka. Sixteen of the finest days were spent on this trip, and everyone worth the effort. The joys which these visits brought to the small villages is a thing never to be forgotten. The hospitality of the people, and the reputation which the S. J. S. team of this year lived up to and surpassed, are things which the boys, Mr. Holic, and I will always remember.

The trip has been an experience for all of the boys and myself included. For me it has made the picture of Southeastern Alaska more complete. For the boys it has meant an education of a practical nature, seeing how life goes on in other towns and villages.